

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
WESTERN DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	:	Case No. 3:21-cr-58
Plaintiff,	:	Judge Thomas M. Rose
v.	:	
RONELL STACY RHODES,	:	
Defendant.	:	

PRELIMINARY ORDER OF FORFEITURE

Upon the United States' Motion for Preliminary Order of Forfeiture and the Court's review of the evidence in the record, including the Plea Agreement, the Court HEREBY FINDS THAT:

On May 12, 2021, a grand jury in the Southern District of Ohio returned a two-count Indictment charging Ronell Stacy Rhodes (hereinafter the "Defendant") in Counts 1 and 2 with Being a Felon in Possession of a Firearm, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(g)(1) and 924(a)(2).

The Forfeiture Allegation in the Indictment provided notice to the Defendant that the United States would seek the forfeiture, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 924(d)(1) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(d), of any firearms and ammunition involved in or used in the violations, including but not limited to the following (the "subject property"):

- As to Count 1, Glock .45 caliber handgun, serial number XLG860, with approximately thirteen (13) rounds of ammunition and any attachments, which was seized on or about March 18, 2021; and
- As to Count 2, Taurus .38 special revolver, serial number CY52220, with approximately five (5) rounds of ammunition and any attachments, which was seized on or about April 28, 2021.

On or about July 7, 2021, the Defendant entered into a Plea Agreement with the United States in which the Defendant agreed to plead guilty to Counts 1 and 2 of the Indictment and agreed

to the immediate forfeiture of the subject property, pursuant to 18 U.S.C § 924(d) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c), as property involved in the offense charged in Count 1 or 2 of the Indictment.

The Defendant entered pleas of guilty to Counts 1 and 2 of the Indictment on July 7, 2021.

The subject property is forfeitable, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 924(d)(1) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c), as property involved in the commission of the offense set forth in Count 1 or 2 of the Indictment. The Defendant had an interest in the subject property.

The United States has established the requisite nexus between the subject property and the Defendant's offenses.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. All right, title, and interest in the subject property is condemned and forfeited to the United States pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 924(d)(1) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c).

2. The United States is authorized to seize the subject property, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(g) and Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(b)(3), whether held by the Defendant or a third party; conduct any discovery for identifying, locating, or disposing of the property; and to commence proceedings that comply with any statutes governing third party rights.

3. In accordance with the direction provided by the Attorney General and Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(b)(6), the United States shall publish notice of this Order and send notice to any person who reasonably appears to be a potential claimant with standing to contest the forfeiture in the ancillary proceeding. Publication must take place as described in Supplemental Rule G(4)(a)(iii) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and may be by any means described in Supplemental Rule G(4)(a)(iv). Publication is unnecessary if any exception in Supplemental Rule G(4)(a)(i) applies.

4. The notice must describe the forfeited property, state the times under the applicable

statute when a petition contesting the forfeiture must be filed, and state the name and contact information for the Assistant United States Attorney to be served with the petition. The notice may be sent in accordance with Supplemental Rules G(4)(b)(iii)-(v).

5. Pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(n)(2), any person, other than the Defendant, asserting a legal interest in the subject property, who wishes to contest the forfeiture of the subject property must, within thirty (30) days of the final publication of notice or of receipt of actual notice, whichever is earlier, file a petition in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio for a hearing to adjudicate the validity of the alleged legal interest in the subject property.

6. Any petition filed by a third party shall be signed by the petitioner under penalty of perjury and shall set forth the nature and extent of the petitioner's right, title, or interest in the property; the time and circumstances of the petitioner's acquisition of the right, title, or interest in the property; any additional facts supporting the petitioner's claim; and the relief sought.

7. The United States shall have clear title to the subject property following the Court's disposition of all third party interests, or if no third party petitions are timely filed, following the expiration of the period provided by statute for the filing of third party petitions.

8. In accordance with the Plea Agreement, this Preliminary Order of Forfeiture is final as to the Defendant and shall be made part of the sentence and included in the Judgment. This Order remains preliminary as to third parties until the ancillary proceeding is concluded.

SO ORDERED:

Dated: 8/2/21

s/Thomas M. Rose

THOMAS M. ROSE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE